

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A heated side window assembly for an automobile, said automobile having a sideview mirror mounted generally adjacent said heated side window assembly, said heated side window assembly comprising:

a glass sheet having an interior surface and an exterior surface;

a single, continuous, electrical conductor strip mounted to said interior surface of said glass sheet having a pair of ends, said conductor strip outputting radiant heat in response to an electrical current flow therethrough, said conductor strip being positioned such that it generally bounds an area defined by an operator's line of sight to the sideview mirror of the vehicle;

a pair of conductor pads electrically coupled to said pair of ends of said conductor strip;

a switch selectively outputting a control signal;

a power supply; and

a controller electrically coupled between said power supply and said pair of conductor pads, said controller providing electrical current to said conductor strip in response to said control signal.

2. The heated side window assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an activatable adhesive disposed between said conductor strip and said interior surface of said glass sheet for selectively adhering said conductor strip to said glass sheet.

3. The heated side window assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said pair of conductor pads is adapted to be located substantially below a door line of the vehicle when said glass sheet is in a closed position.

4. The heated side window assembly according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a moisture sensor electrically coupled to said controller for activating said controller in response to detection of a predetermined amount of moisture on said glass sheet so as to provide electrical current to said conductor strip.

5. The heated side window assembly according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a timer electrically coupled to said controller for deactivating said controller after a predetermined amount of time so as to interrupt electrical current to said conductor strip.

6. The heated side window assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a protective insulating material extending over said conductor strip.

7. The heated side window assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said operator's line of sight to the sideview mirror of the vehicle is defined by sight lines passing through said glass sheet toward the sideview mirror from a range of occupant eye positions.

8. A kit for use with a front sidelite of an automobile, the automobile having a sideview mirror mounted generally adjacent to the front sidelite such that the front sidelite includes a viewing portion through which an operator views the sideview mirror, the automobile further having a power supply, said kit comprising:

- a single, continuous, electrical conductor strip having a pair of ends, said conductor strip further having an activatable adhesive mounted thereon for selectively adhering said conductor strip to the front sidelite sheet, said conductor strip outputting radiant heat in response to a current flow therethrough, said conductor strip being positionable such that it generally bounds the viewing portion of the sidelite of the vehicle;

- a pair of conductor pads electrically coupled to said pair of ends of said conductor strip;

- a switch selectively outputting a control signal; and

- a controller electrically connectable between the power supply and said pair of conductor pads, said controller providing electrical current to said conductor strip in response to said control signal, thereby heating the viewing portion of the sidelite.

9. The kit according to Claim 8, wherein said pair of conductor pads is adapted to be located substantially below a door line of the vehicle when the sidelite is in a closed position.

10. The kit according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a moisture sensor electrically coupled to said controller for activating said controller in response to detection of a predetermined amount of moisture on the sidelite so as to provide electrical current to said conductor strip.

11. The kit according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a timer electrically coupled to said controller for deactivating said controller after a predetermined amount of time so as to interrupt electrical current to said conductor strip.

12. The kit according to Claim 8, further comprising:

a protective insulating material extending over said conductor strip.

13. A side window assembly for use in a front door of an automotive vehicle, said front door having a side view mirror mounted thereto, said side window assembly having a glass sheet slidably received within window opening of said front door, said glass sheet having a viewing area generally in an operator's line of sight to said sideview mirror, the improvement comprising:

an electrical conductor strip mountable to an interior surface of the glass sheet, said conductor strip outputting radiant heat in response to an electrical current flow therethrough, said conductor strip being positionable generally in the viewing area, said conductor strip having a pair of ends;

a pair of conductor pads electrically coupled to said pair of ends of said conductor strip;

a switch selectively outputting a control signal;

a power supply; and

a controller electrically coupled between said power supply and said pair of conductor pads, said controller permitting the flow of electrical current from said power supply to said conductor strip in response to said control signal.

14. The improvement according to Claim 13, further comprising:

an activatable adhesive disposed between said conductor strip and said interior surface of said glass sheet for selectively adhering said conductor strip to said glass sheet.

15. The improvement according to Claim 14, wherein said pair of conductor pads is adapted to be located substantially below a door line of the vehicle when said glass sheet is in a closed position.

16. The improvement according to Claim 15, further comprising:

a moisture sensor electrically coupled to said controller for activating said controller in response to detection of a predetermined amount of moisture on said glass sheet so as to provide electrical current to said conductor strip.

17. The improvement according to Claim 16, further comprising:

a timer electrically coupled to said controller for deactivating said controller after a predetermined amount of time so as to interrupt electrical current to said conductor strip.

18. The improvement according to Claim 17, further comprising:

a protective insulating material extending over said conductor strip.